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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY [redacted] 25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Ajka Power Plant/Alumina Factory

DATE DISTR. 19 Aug 1952

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NO. OF ENCLS. 1 (LISTED BELOW) Enclosure "A"

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION [redacted] 25X1

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General Description

1. For the purpose of refining the large volume of bauxite mined in Veszprem Megye, a German concern established a large-scale alumina factory at Ajka, on the Szekesfehervar-Szombathely main railroad line.

2. The power is supplied by a 48-thousand kilowatt generating plant constructed by the United Incandescent Lamp Factory.

3. This plant has supplied power and steam not only to the alumina factory, but also to the Ajka-Csingervolgy coal mine, the crypton works in the Csinger Valley, the Padrag coal mine /which supplies the power plant with coal/, and a few nearby towns.

4. The alumina factory was built by the firm of Antal Sorg. The contractor for the power plant was Jakab Aschner, engineer, a brother of Lipot Aschner, president of the United Incandescent Lamp Factory. Both projects were constructed under the supervision of Undersecretary Antal Petneházy who lived on the construction site until they were completed.

5. The alumina was transported to the aluminum factory located on the Szekesfehervar-Dinnyes state highway at Szekesfehervar, where it was used exclusively for the manufacture of airplane sheets and parts.

6. Hungary has always been the most important producer of bauxite in Central Europe. Economical production of aluminum is a question of cheap power supply; the Ajka power plant which owns the nearby Padrag coal mine /which is also controlled by United Incandescent/ is therefore of great importance.

7. Besides the Szekesfehervar aluminum smelter, it was planned to build an additional smelting plant at Inota, between Varpalota and Szekesfehervar. The development of the aluminum manufacture was of very great importance for Hungary, because it was planned to use aluminum as a substitute for nonferrous metals and partly also for steel.

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8. The extent of the development of bauxite, alumina, and aluminum production is indicated by the fact that bauxite production rose from 540 thousand tons in 1938 to 560 thousand tons in 1949; alumina production from nine thousand tons in 1938 to 30 thousand tons in 1949; and aluminum production from 15 hundred tons in 1938 to 14 thousand tons in 1949.

Technical Description of the Power Plant (See Enclosure (A). Letters following items below refer to points on the Enclosure.)

9. Power Plant("A")- The power plant is equipped with Swiss type boilers for the firing of fine powder coal. The powder coal is introduced by blowers into the boilers, where its temperature is raised to red heat. The boilers were supplied and installed by a Swiss manufacturer and the three turbines by Ganz.

10. Coal Supply - The coal is mined at Padrag ("O"), loaded into freight cars at ("N") and transported to an underground freight yard ("O"), which has a capacity of six hundred carloads of coal on railroad line "E/1" over a railroad bridge ("E") equipped with a double track. The coal is unloaded at "G", then transported to the underground crushing plant. After the coal is ground into powder it is transported on a rubber conveyor belt into five bunkers built into the ceiling of the power plant. From the bunkers the powder coal is fed automatically into the boilers.

11. Water Supply - Water is supplied by the Torna Patak (Torna Brook) through a stone canal ("J"), passing through a Venturi meter into a precipitating installation ("K"). The precipitated water is stored in three large reservoirs and is conducted into the cooling tower ("D") through canal("d/2"). The cooling tower is of reinforced concrete and is 33 meters high. They used the excess water that also flowed into Torna Patak ("B"), and likewise passed through a Venturi meter and a 75-meter-high smokestack.

12. Power Supply for the Alumina Factory-The power is transmitted underground through tunnel("g"). This tunnel contains the power cables and the steam pipes with the expansion loops. The tunnel is three hundred meters long and is constructed of burned-clay bricks. The cables are suspended on the right-hand side of the tunnel and the steam pipes are mounted on reinforced concrete supports.

13. The factory is connected with the main railroad line and its entire area is equipped with a standard-gauge spur line system.

14. Ajka is approximately two kilometers northeast of Bode. Its elevation is 210 meters above sea level.

15. The main building of the alumina factory is marked ("F") on the sketch. [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] manager of the power plant was engineer Jeno Balogby.

16. The power plant had an initial capacity of 48 thousand kilowatts. However, it had been designed and built with a view to later expansion.

17. On the sites marked ("L") and ("M") of the sketch, living quarters for the workers and office employees, and a cafeteria were built.

18. [redacted] in 1948 this electrical works was in operation under Soviet control.

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25X1 ENCLOSURE (A): Sketch of the Ajka Power Plant

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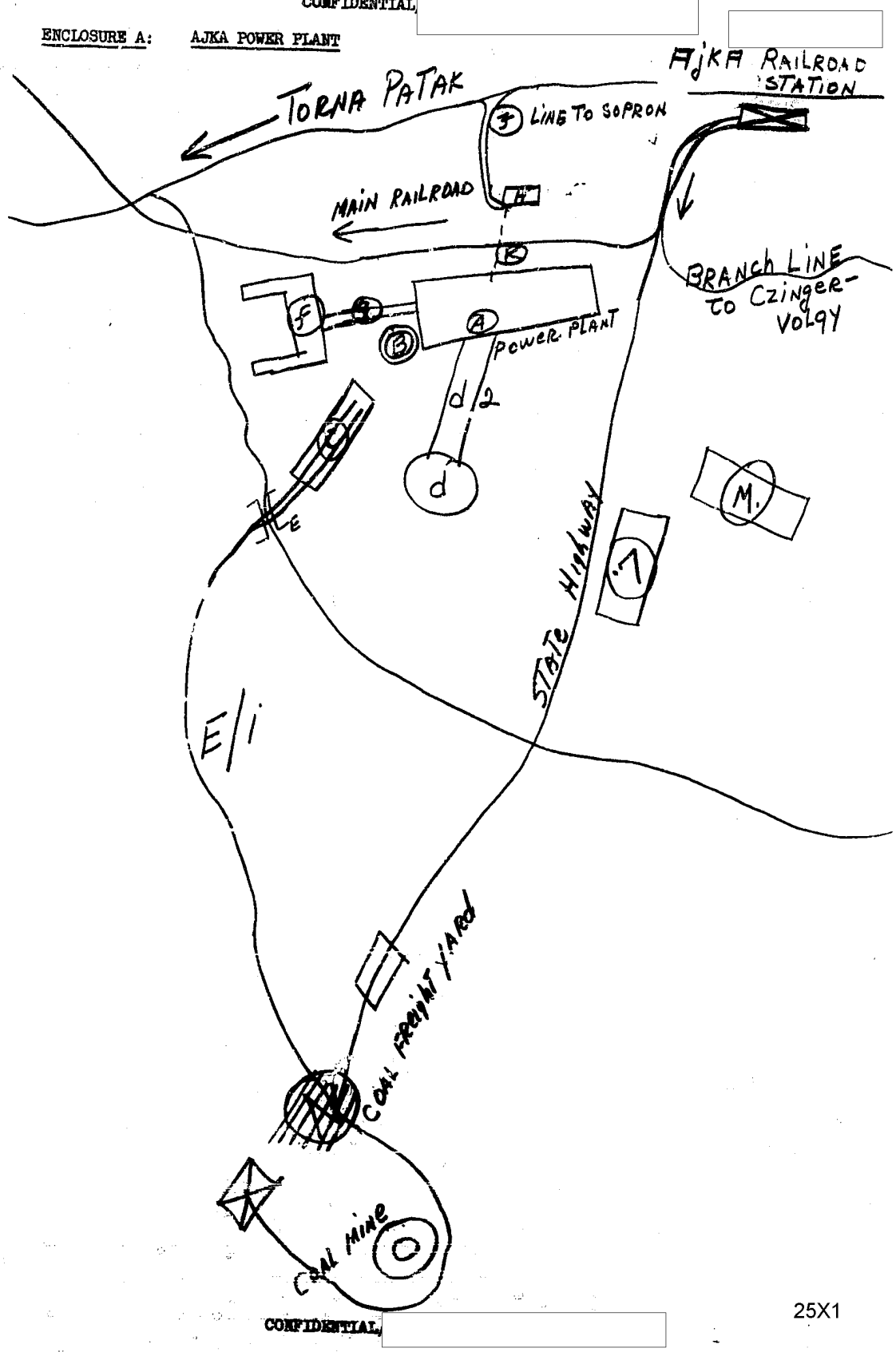
ENCLOSURE A: AJKA POWER PLANT



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